



10¢

AUG.
NO. 35

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

HOUSE of SECRETS

*"The
INTERPLANETARY
TARGET!"*

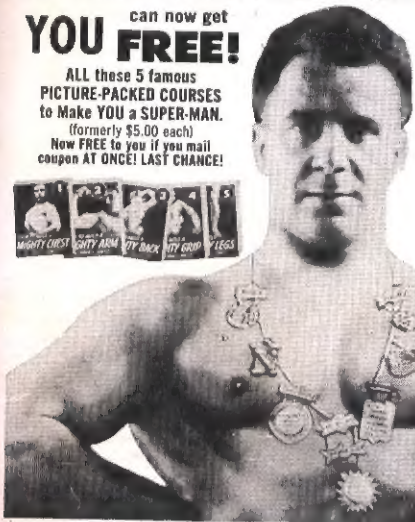
THIS IS THE
EARTHMAN WE
HAVE COME TO
DESTROY--
MARK MERLIN!



THE WORLD'S GREATEST MOLDER OF HANDSOME HE-MEN AND CHAMPS out of WEAKLINGS says

can now get
YOU FREE!

ALL these 5 famous
PICTURE-PACKED COURSES
to Make YOU a SUPER-MAN.
(formerly \$5.00 each)
Now FREE to you if you mail
coupon AT ONCE! LAST CHANCE!



"NO MATTER WHAT YOUR AGE
I'll show you, by my quick, easy SECRETS

How to GAIN OR LOSE UP TO 50 LBS. FAST
like my pupils here did and THOUSANDS do now."



"I GAINED
60 LBS.
OF SHAPELY
MIGHTY
MUSCLES.
BEFORE
mailing
coupon,
I was a
125 lb.
6 ft.
skinny
weakling.

says JOHN SILL.

YOU can add
7 inches to your CHEST
3 1/2 inches to each ARM
and the rest in proportion
just as I did.

YOU can WIN the 18" tall
SILVER TROPHY with name on it,
A GOLD MEDAL, \$100, as I did."

45 year old FATHER and 18 year
old SON — now Pals — train
JOWETT way together!



"Both gained pounds of powerful
muscles. Advise all you fathers and
sons to send for the Jowett courses
without foolish delay."

—LARRY CAMPBELL

"I LOST
30 LBS.
OF
DANGEROUS
UGLY
FAT
4 INCHES
OFF MY
WAIST!

"That 220 lb. FAT-BOY at
the right was ME a few
short weeks ago."

JOWETT streamlined my
body, made me a new man
my 47" chest
my 32" waist
15" difference
attracts admiration at the beach,

A WINNING CHAMPION
and SPORTSMAN.

"I am just
41 years YOUNG now,

I LOST
POUNDS OF
FAT FAST.
Everyone,
regardless
of age,
should
send
for your
courses.
Soon
they'll
be as proud
as I am."

Paul
Lange



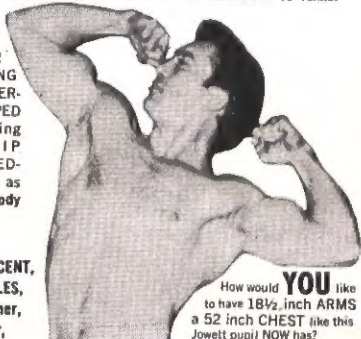
SKINNY OR FAT, 15, 20, 30 OR 40 YEARS OF AGE
I'LL BUILD YOU INTO A NEW
ATHLETIC MIGHTY-MUSCLED
ALL-MALE HE-MAN

in 10 THRILLING MINUTES a day, as I have done to MILLIONS in 35 YEARS."

**GEORGE
JOWETT**

4 TIMES WINNER
WORLD'S STRONG
EST and MOST PER-
FECTLY DEVELOPED
MAN title, wearing
CHAMPIONSHIP
MEDALS, and MED-
ALS honoring him as
"WORLD'S BEST Body
Builder"

This new MAGNIFICENT,
MODERN HERCULES,
26 year old teacher,
William Butler,



How would YOU like
to have 18 1/2 inch ARMS
a 52 inch CHEST like this
Jowett pupil NOW has?

says to YOU, "No matter WHAT your age, I advise you, SEND for the
JOWETT WONDER PICTURE COURSES at once.

Under the World's GREATEST BODY-BUILDER, George Jowett, I
now have 18 1/2" ARMS, a 52" CHEST my STRENGTH has greatly im-
proved. So have my sports. I have won titles like "Mr. Virginia",
"Mr. State Y.M.C.A.", etc."

**YOU can soon be a HERO OF MEN like Butler is
and an IDOL OF WOMEN in a few weeks!**

Yes! In just 10 THRILLING MINUTES a day, in the
SECRECY OF YOUR OWN ROOM at home, MY RAPID-
FIRE, EASY as ABC FAMOUS PICTURE METHODS
will start building you THE VERY FIRST NIGHT. I'll
show you How to Mold 16 INCH ARMS of MIGHT,
a big, deep 45 INCH CHEST housing TIRELESS
LUNGS, WIDE MANLY SHOULDERS — a BROAD
BRAWNY BACK, tapering to a SLENDER WAIST with
punch-proof STOMACH MUSCLES, LEGS of RUN-
NING POWER.

**WOMEN always say, "I just adore
JOWETT ALL-MALE HE-MEN".**

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are
now, if you're in your teens, twenties, thirties or
forties, I'll show you in just 10 thrilling minutes
in your home, how you can make yourself over by
the easy, quick method I turned myself from
weak to WORLD CHAMPION and turned MILLIONS
of others into all-male he-men!

YES! You'll add INCHES of MIGHTY MUSCLES to
your ARMS, broaden your CHEST, broaden your
BACK and SHOULDERS, from HEAD to HEELS
you'll gain SIZE, POWER, LIGHTNING SPEED
ENDURANCE. You'll become a SUCCESSFUL HE-
MAN in LOOKS and ACTS — a WINNER in EVERY-
THING — athletics, business, studies.



"I'm
proud
of you
now,
Tooy!"

Pascrena

BEFORE
mailing
coupon
this
JOWETT
pupil was
this
90 lb.
skeleton.
Gained
70 lbs.
Made
football
team.

You wouldn't
give me
a tumble
before
I gained
28 JOWETT
lbs.

**JOWETT INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL TRAINING, Dept. AC-88
220 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.**

Dear George: Mail me FREE all 5 HE-MAN Building Picture Courses.
Include PHOTO BOOK of FAMOUS STRONG MEN.

☐ I enclose 10c for mailing and handling.
I am under no other obligation.
I'm checking everything I need to give me the kind of body I want.
☐ I want to gain _____ lbs. (fill in). ☐ Triple my strength.
☐ I want to streamline my body, get rid of flabby fat.
☐ I want to add inches of muscle to my ☐ ARMS ☐ CHEST
☐ SHOULDERS ☐ POWERFUL LEGS ☐ SLIM WAIST
☐ I want to become a winning athlete. ☐ I want new pep.

NAME _____ (please print or write plainly) AGE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

FREE

850 worth of Sports,
Self-
defense,
Strong-man
Stunts
Courses
Apparatus.
Let me
know how
to get these
FREE!

JOWETT INSTITUTE, Dept. AC-88 220 Fifth Ave., New York 1, N.Y.

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ZERO HOUR WAS AT HAND! ALIEN FINGERS WORKED SWIFTLY BUT EFFICIENTLY TO SET THE LETHAL WEAPON! BUT WHY HAD THEY TRAVELED MILLIONS OF MILES THROUGH SPACE, TO WIPE OUT ONE EARTHMAN? AND WHY WAS MARK MERLIN, FAMED SLEUTH OF THE SUPERNATURAL, CHOSEN AS...

the INTERPLANETARY TARGET

A PERFECT SHOT...
THE EARTHMAN IS
IN THE CENTER OF
OUR SIGHT!

A
**MARK
MERLIN**
MYSTERY

THE SHOT IS
ON TARGET...
MARK MERLIN
IS DOOMED!

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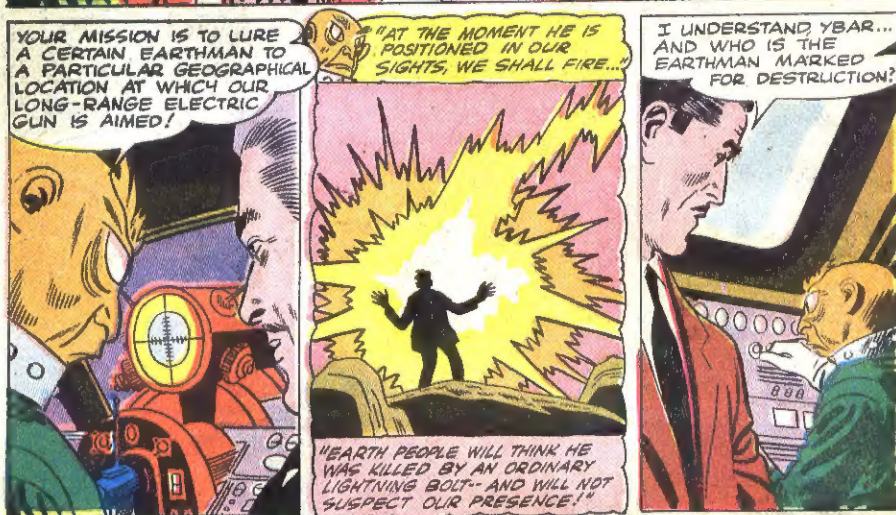
HOUSE OF SECRETS



IN AN ALIEN CRAFT
HOVERING HIGH
ABOVE THE EARTH,
STRANGE PREPARATIONS
ARE UNDERWAY...

THERE... WITH THIS
SKIN-COATING, YOU
WILL BE ABLE TO PASS
EASILY AS AN EARTHMAN.
DO NOT FORGET TO WEAR
THE THOUGHT TRANSLATOR!

AND MY
MISSION
ON EARTH,
YBAR?

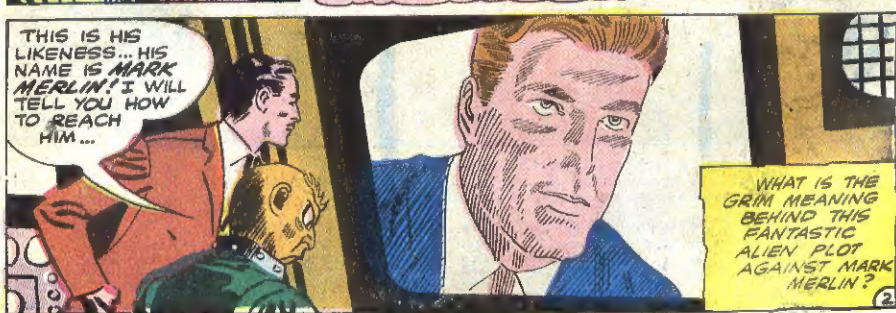


YOUR MISSION IS TO LURE
A CERTAIN EARTHMAN TO
A PARTICULAR GEOGRAPHICAL
LOCATION AT WHICH OUR
LONG-RANGE ELECTRIC
GUN IS AIMED!

"AT THE MOMENT HE IS
POSITIONED IN OUR
SIGHTS, WE SHALL FIRE..."

"EARTH PEOPLE WILL THINK HE
WAS KILLED BY AN ORDINARY
LIGHTNING BOLT-- AND WILL NOT
SUSPECT OUR PRESENCE!"

I UNDERSTAND YBAR...
AND WHO IS THE
EARTHMAN MARKED
FOR DESTRUCTION?



THIS IS HIS
LIKENESS... HIS
NAME IS **MARK
MERLIN**! I WILL
TELL YOU HOW
TO REACH
HIM...

WHAT IS THE
GRIM MEANING
BEHIND THIS
FANTASTIC
ALIEN PLOT
AGAINST **MARK
MERLIN**?



HOUSE OF SECRETS



FOR A CLUE TO THE ANSWER, WE MUST GO BACK IN TIME SEVERAL WEEKS TO THE FAMED INVESTIGATOR'S PRIVATE LAB...

ELSA--THIS STRANGE BALLOON BROUGHT IN FOR ANALYSIS IS POSITIVELY INDESTRUCTIBLE! IT'S RESISTED GUN-FIRE AND EVERY KNOWN ACID!

YES--BUT YOU'RE NOT INDESTRUCTIBLE, MARK--AND YOU'LL COLLAPSE FROM HUNGER IF YOU DON'T STOP FOR A BITE!

MMM... ROAST BEEF-- MY FAVORITE SANDWICH!

BUT AS MARK TOOK HIS FIRST BITE...

THE BALLOON!... IT'S--IT'S *DISINTEGRATING!*



ODD... WHAT CAUSED IT TO FALL APART LIKE THAT? I MUST TRY TO FIGURE IT OUT... THEN I MIGHT DISCOVER WHAT IT WAS -- AND WHERE IT CAME FROM!

NOW, WEEKS LATER, IN MARK'S OFFICE, A KNOCK ON THE DOOR IS FOLLOWED BY...

MR. MERLIN?... MY NAME IS ALLANS! I WISH TO ENGAGE YOUR SERVICES REGARDING A MOST MYSTERIOUS PHENOMENON!

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT, MR. ALLANS?

THIS TREE, WHICH I DISCOVERED GROWING NEAR MY AFRICAN JUNGLE RANCH!

NOTICE THE *BUBBLES* GROWING -- INSTEAD OF LEAVES OR FRUIT!

GOOD GRIEF, MARK! THOSE BUBBLES ARE IDENTICAL TO THE ONE THAT WAS BROUGHT IN WEEKS AGO!



MR. ALLANS, AFRICA SEEMS LIKE A LONG PLACE TO GO FOR SOME BALLOONS-- BUT IT'S A DEAL! IN FACT, I'LL CHARTER A PLANE RIGHT NOW, IF YOU'RE READY!

OF COURSE!

LITTLE DOES HE KNOW THAT INSTEAD OF A BALLOON-BEARING TREE, HE WILL FIND -- DOOM!

TWO DAYS LATER, A PLANE CIRCLES A WEST AFRICAN AIRFIELD -- AND PRESENTLY...

IF ANYBODY TOLD ME LAST WEEK I'D BE GOING ON A SAFARI TODAY, I'D -- I'D... OH, WELL, I SUPPOSE THIS IS ONE OF THE PENALTIES OF WORKING FOR MARK MERLIN!

BUT DEEP IN THE BRUSH, A SUDDEN OMINOUS GROWL...

WATCH IT, ALLANS! YOU'RE WALKING STRAIGHT INTO THE PATH OF A LION!

A--A DANGEROUS EARTH BEAST? YEAH DID NOT WARN ME ABOUT THIS!



AS THE DISGUISED ALIEN FREEZES WITH FEAR...

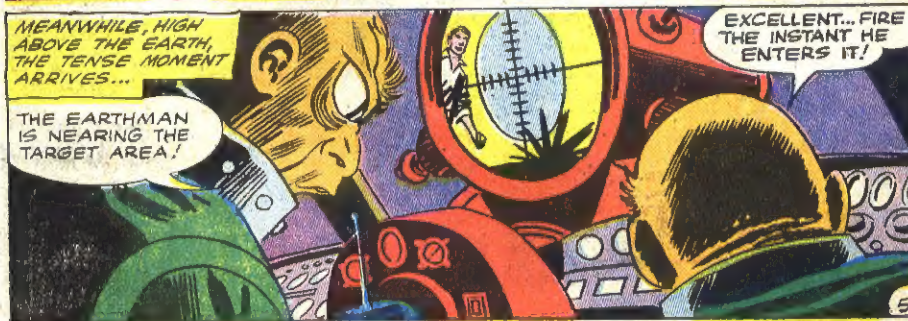
MARK!... THE LION'S ABOUT TO LEAP!

YES... AND ALLANS IS IN MY DIRECT LINE OF FIRE!



KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED, ELSA! I'M A LITTLE OUT OF PRACTICE... BUT THIS JUNGLE VINE IS OUR ONE CHANCE!







HOUSE OF SECRETS

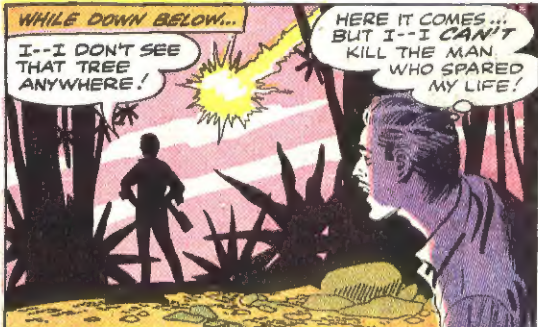


ABRUPTLY, A TRIGGER IS SQUEEZED...
AND EARTHWARD SPEEDS THE
LETHAL CHARGE TOWARD ITS
INTENDED VICTIM...



WHILE DOWN BELOW...

I--I DON'T SEE
THAT TREE
ANYWHERE!



HERE IT COMES...
BUT I--I CAN'T
KILL THE MAN
WHO SPARED
MY LIFE!

THE ALIEN MOVES WITH BLINDING SPEED...



WHAT--?

QUICKLY--INTO THE
DENSE BRUSH WHERE
THEY CANNOT
SEE US!

SURE--
SURE... BUT
WHO'S
AFTER
US?



MERCURIAN RENEGADES!
SEE?... I AM ONE OF THEM!
I LURED YOU HERE--
SO OUR WEAPON
WOULD DESTROY
YOU!

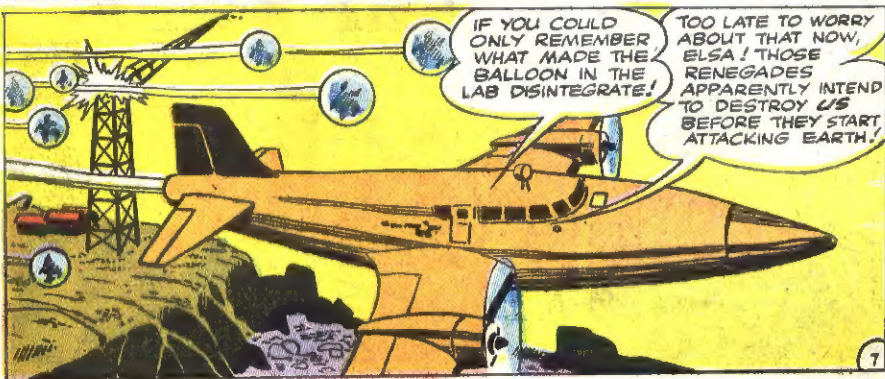
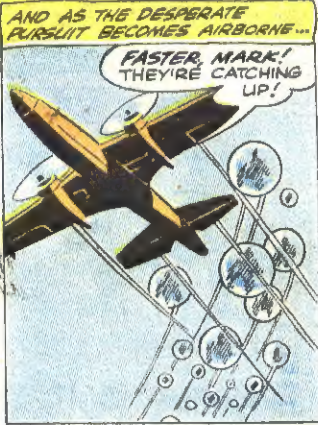
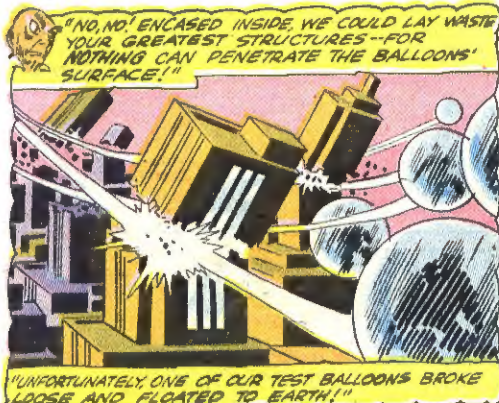
GREAT
THUNDER!...
WHY?

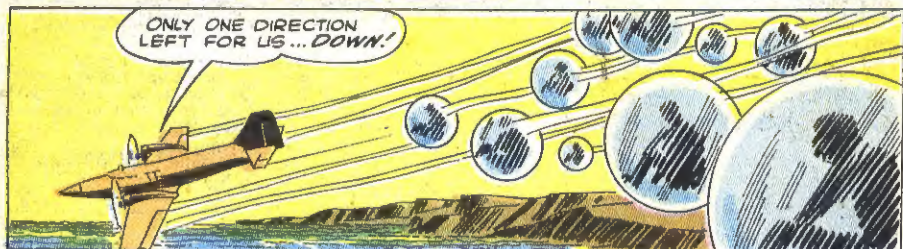
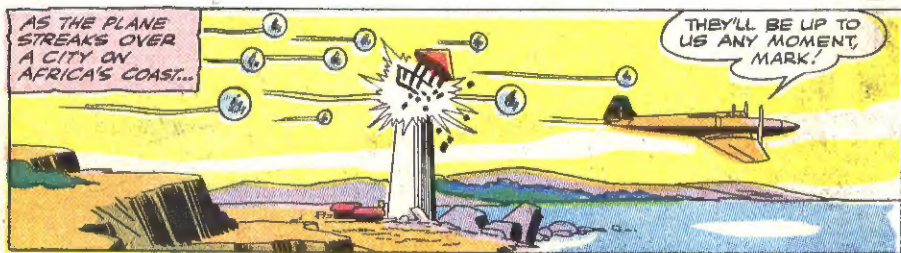


BECAUSE YOU FOUND THE
SINGLE WEAKNESS OF THE
NEW BALLOON VEHICLE--
WHICH WE
INTENDED
USING TO
INVAD EARTH!

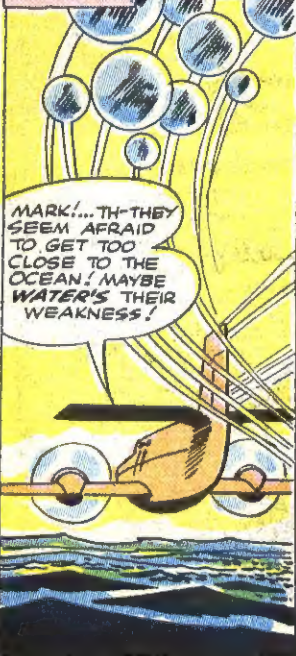
THAT BALLOON--
A VEHICLE--
YOU MUST BE
KIDDING!







BUT AS THE PLANE SKIDS DANGEROUSLY LOW OVER THE WATER...



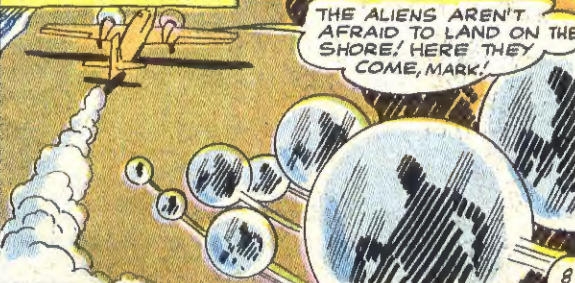
NO--I SPLASHED WATER ALL OVER THE BALLOON IN MY LAB, WITHOUT AFFECTING IT!

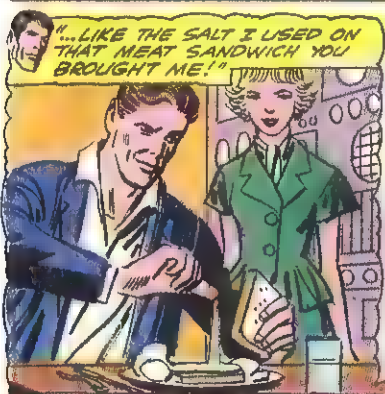
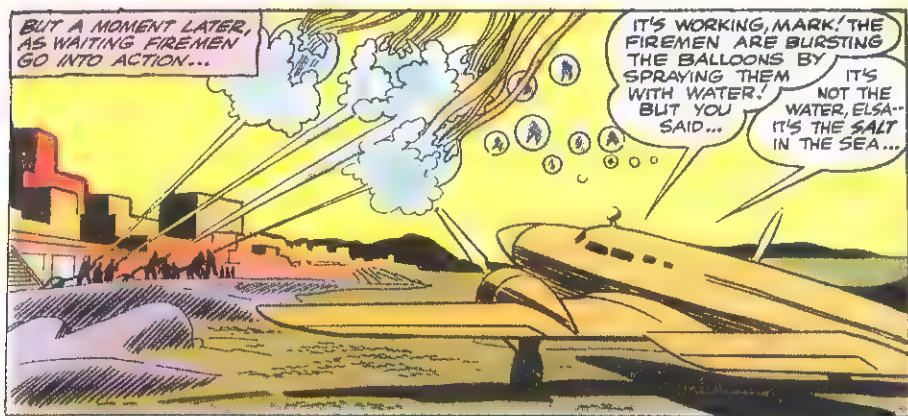


WAIT!... IT--IT WASN'T THIS KIND OF WATER! I--I THINK I'VE GOT IT! MUST GET THIS RADIO WORKING!



QUICKLY, MARK RADIOS ORDERS TO THE MAINLAND, BANKS HARD-- AND SOON...





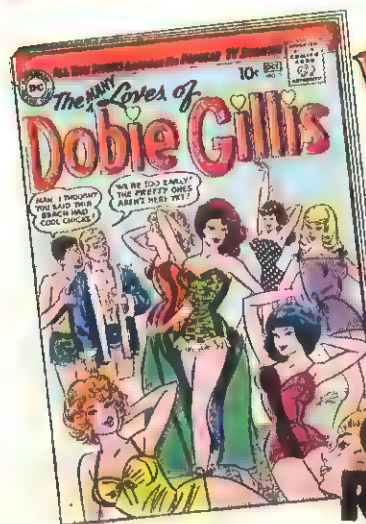
"SOME OF IT SPILLED ON THE TABLE-- AND THAT'S WHAT BURST THE BALLOON!"

NOW, IF YOU WILL PROVIDE THE MATERIALS, I SHALL CONSTRUCT A RADIO THAT CAN SUMMON THE POLICE OF MY WORLD!

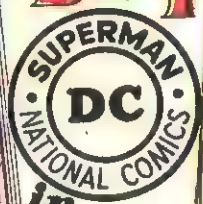
THANKS, FRIEND... I'M SURE THEY WON'T PUNISH YOU, AFTER I TELL THEM HOW YOU HELPED US!



The End



For The
**VERY
BEST**



in
**COMICS
READING!**





GIANTS of the TELESCOPE



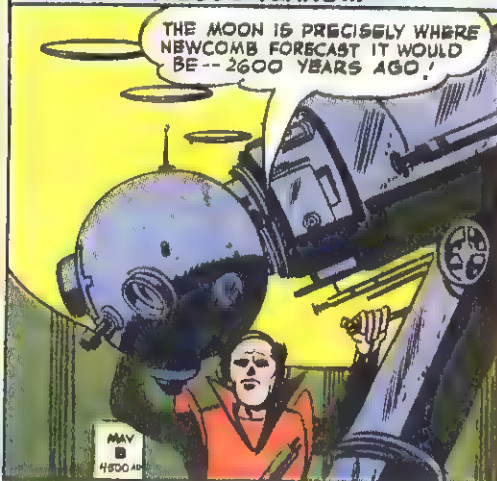
NEWCOMB WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TO MAKE OBSERVATIONS OF THE UNKNOWN SATELLITES OF URANUS AND NEPTUNE...

I'M LOOKING FOR A COPY OF SIMON NEWCOMB'S NEW BOOK, "THE URANIAN AND NEPTUNIAN SYSTEMS."



ANOTHER MYSTERY THAT FASCINATED NEWCOMB WAS THE APPARENT REGULAR OCCURRENCE OF SUNSPOTS. ACCORDING TO HIS STUDIES, THE AVERAGE INTERVAL BETWEEN SUCCESSIVE MAXIMUM SUNSPOTS ACTIVITY IS 11.13 YEARS...

WHILE STUDYING THE MOON'S MOTION, NEWCOMB WAS STARTLED TO DISCOVER THAT ALL PREVIOUS CALCULATIONS WERE IN ERROR. THEREUPON HE MADE HIS OWN COMPUTATIONS AND FORECASTS FOR THE MOON THAT ASTRONOMERS ESTIMATE WILL BE GOOD FOR ANOTHER 2600 YEARS...



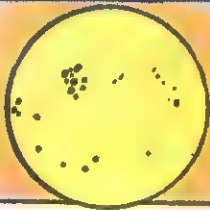
PUZZLED AS TO THE ORIGIN OF THE ASTEROIDS REVOLVING BETWEEN MARS AND JUPITER, NEWCOMB SPENT LONG HOURS STUDYING THEIR ORBITS...

I HAVE TWO THEORIES TO EXPLAIN THE ORIGIN OF THE ASTEROIDS. FIRST, THEY MIGHT BE THE SHATTERED FRAGMENTS OF AN EXPLODED PLANET; SECOND, THEY WERE FORMED BY THE BREAKING UP OF A REVOLVING RING OF NEBULOUS MATTER.



SUNSPOT MAXIMUM

A LARGE SPOT-GROUP AND MANY SMALLER SPOTS (FROM PHOTOGRAPH BY YERKES OBSERVATORY).

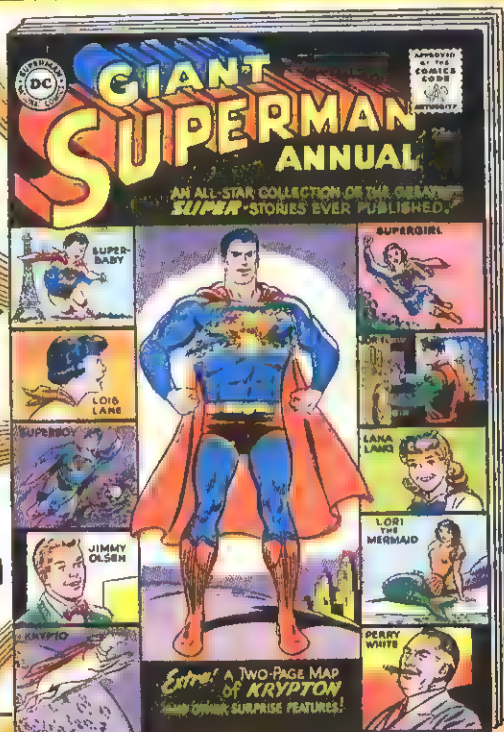


Presenting **THE GREATEST**
SUPERMAN
STORIES
EVER TOLD!
 Now you can read them all
IN ONE GIANT COLLECTION!

See
 SUPERMAN'S
First
 EXPLOITS!

Read
 THE *First*
 SUPERGIRL
 STORY!

Learn
 HOW
 JIMMY OLSEN
 MET
 SUPERBOY!



See
 THE
 ORIGIN of
 LORI
 THE MERMAID!

Witness
 THE
 "EXECUTION
 of KRYPTO!"

from
 LOIS LANE
 #1
 "The
 WITCH of
 METROPOLIS!"

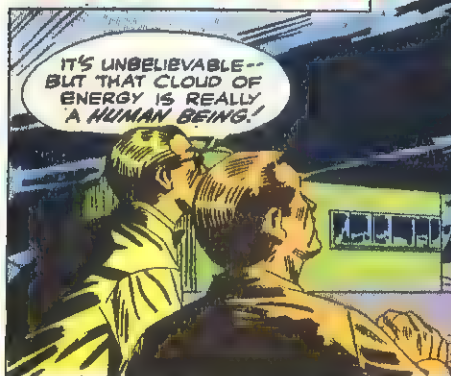
PLUS MANY OTHER FAVORITE
 STORIES OF YESTER-YEAR!

ON SALE
 EVERYWHERE
 JUNE 23rd



IN ONE MOMENT, HE WAS A THING OF FLESH AND BLOOD--IN THE NEXT, HE WAS A BOLT OF ENERGY WANDERING THROUGH THE UNIVERSE AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT! AND WHEN THEY TRIED TO SAVE HIM, THEY REALIZED THAT...

DOOM WAS HIS PARTNER



IT'S UNBELIEVABLE--
BUT THAT CLOUD OF
ENERGY IS REALLY
A HUMAN BEING!

YES... AND IF OUR
CALCULATIONS AREN'T
ACCURATE, HE WILL
NEVER REGAIN HIS
HUMAN FORM!

FAR BEYOND EARTH'S STRATOSPHERE
STREAKS A ROCKET BEARING TWO HUMAN
PASSENGERS...

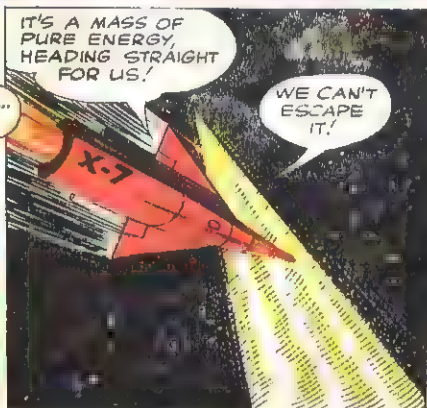
THINK OF IT, LLOYD...
WE'RE AMONG THE
FIRST MEN TO
BREAK THE
SPACE
BARRIER!

THERE'S
SOMETHING ELSE
TO THINK ABOUT, BURT...
THIS INDICATOR SHOWS
HEAVY RADIATION
AHEAD!



IT'S A MASS OF
PURE ENERGY,
HEADING STRAIGHT
FOR US!

WE CAN'T
ESCAPE
IT!





HOUSE OF SECRETS



A MOMENT LATER, AT THE CRAFT'S LAUNCHING SITE...

GIANT CIRCUITS CRACKLE-- MIGHTY ELECTRONIC BRAINS HUM-- BRINGING THE ROCKET TO A SMOOTH, SAFE LANDING...

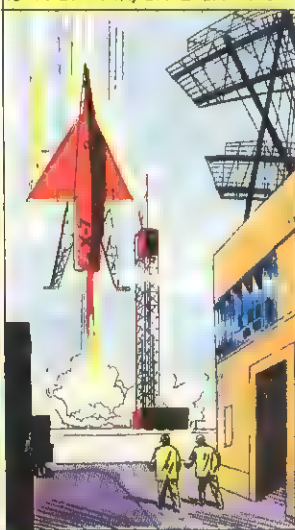
BUT WHEN THE PORT IS OPENED...

THEY'VE LOST CONTROL OF THE SHIP, GENERAL WHITE-- WE'LL HAVE TO LAND IT WITH REMOTE CONTROLS!

ALL RIGHT, DR. VAN EVER-- IT'S YOUR SHOW!

GREAT SCOTT! GENERAL, DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

YES... AND WE CAN'T BOTH HAVE LOST OUR MINDS!

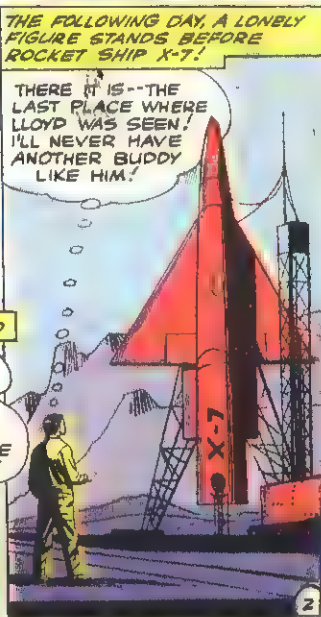
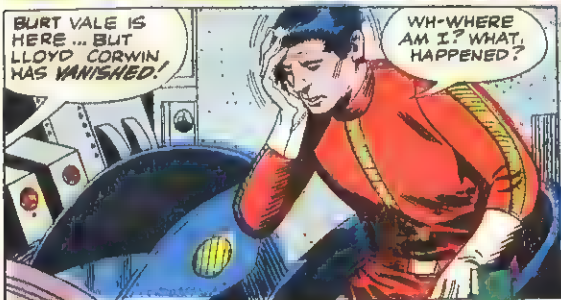


BURT VALE IS HERE... BUT LLOYD CORWIN HAS VANISHED!

WH--WHERE AM I? WHAT HAPPENED?

THE FOLLOWING DAY, A LONELY FIGURE STANDS BEFORE ROCKET SHIP X-7!

THERE IT IS--THE LAST PLACE WHERE LLOYD WAS SEEN! I'LL NEVER HAVE ANOTHER BUDDY LIKE HIM!

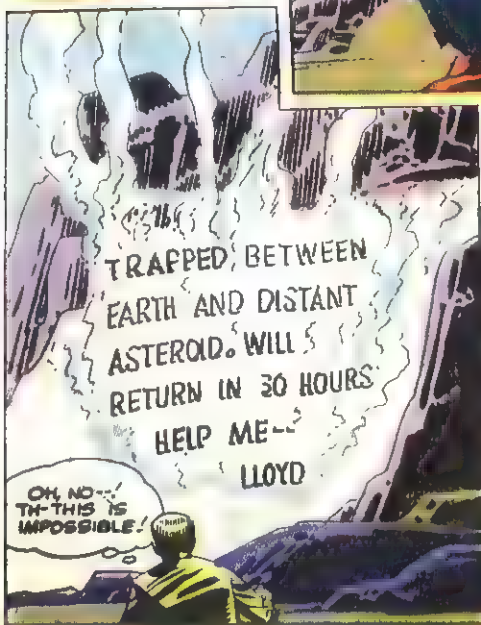
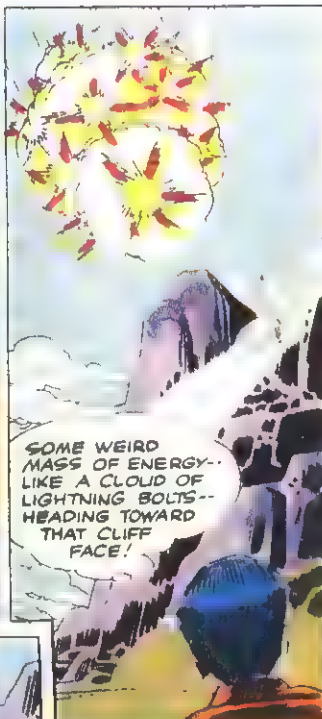


STUNNED BY THE TURN OF EVENTS, THE THREE MEN TRY TO PIECE TOGETHER THE MYSTERY...

SO YOU FIGURE WHATEVER HAPPENED TO LLOYD WAS CAUSED BY THAT MASS OF ENERGY THAT MADE ME BLACK OUT, EH, DOCTOR?

RIGHT--BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS THAT SNATCHED HIM FROM THAT SHIP... AND MAYBE WE NEVER WILL!





STUNNED, BURT VALE HASTENS TO REPORT
THE ASTOUNDING MESSAGE...





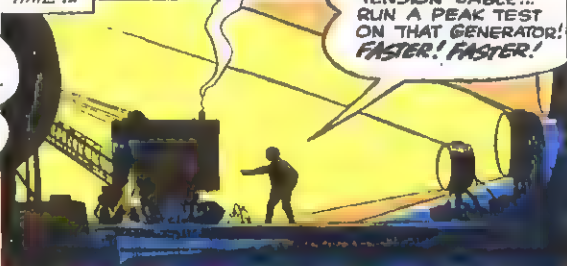
HOUSE OF SECRETS



PROFESSOR ERVIN, AT WESTERN TECH, HAS BEEN TESTING A MACHINE FOR CONVERTING MASS INTO ENERGY! IF HE CAN SOMEHOW REVERSE THAT PROCESS, WE MAY BE ABLE TO SAVE CORWIN... BUT WE'VE ONLY 29 HOURS LEFT!

DAY AND NIGHT, AN ARMY OF TECHNICIANS RACES AGAINST A DEADLY RENDEZVOUS WITH TIME...

BRING THAT CRANE IN CLOSER... START LAYING THE HIGH TENSION CABLE... RUN A PEAK TEST ON THAT GENERATOR! FASTER! FASTER!



AND AS THE ZERO HOUR APPROACHES...

PROFESSOR ERVIN HAS COMPLETED INITIAL TESTS... EVERYTHING CHECKED OUT!

NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON! THE 30 HOURS WILL BE UP IN HALF A MINUTE! HERE'S HOPING...

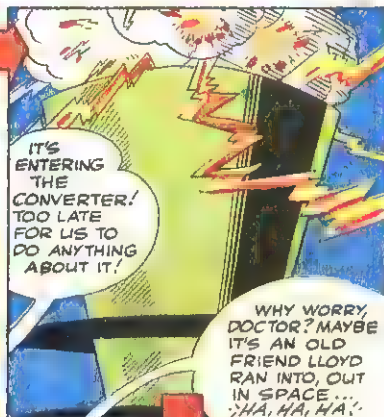
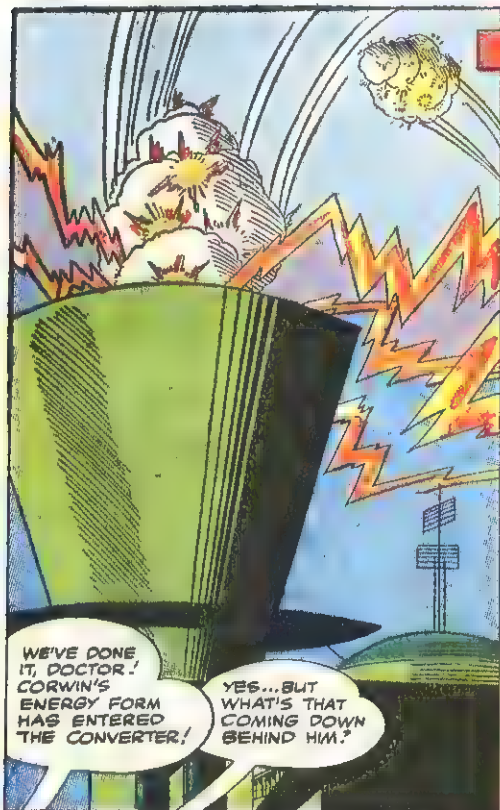
THE CONVERTER IS IN THE PRECISE SPOT WHERE YOUR SHIP LANDED! IF ALL GOES WELL, WE-- WAIT... LOOK!



THERE IT IS, HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THE CONVERTER!

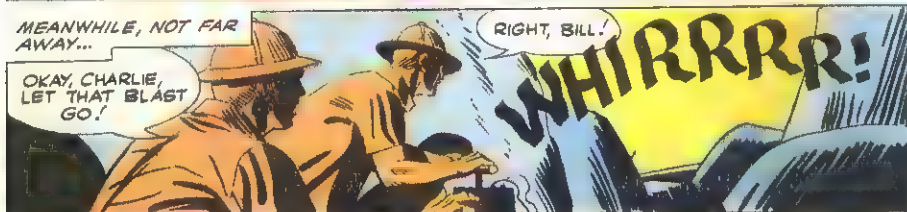
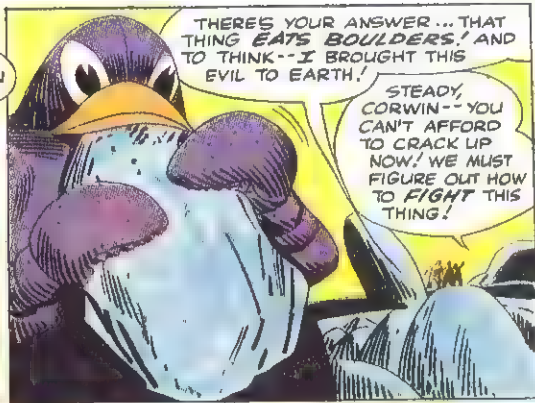
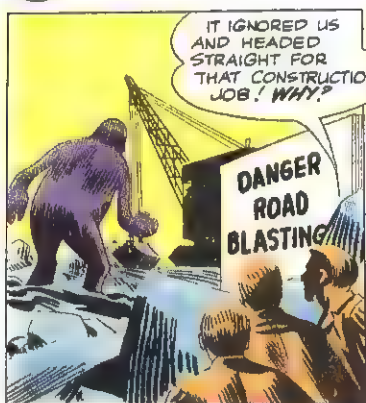


HOUSE OF SECRETS



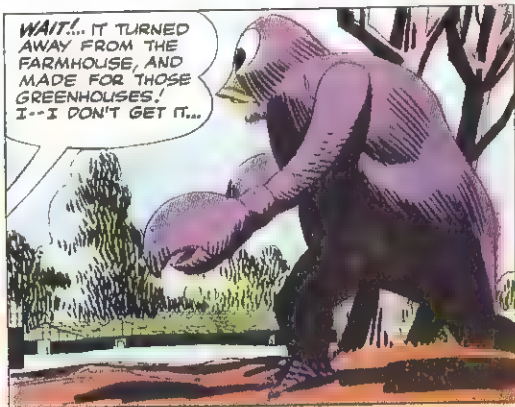
MINUTES LATER, A LONG AWAITED MAN APPEARS IN THE DOORWAY OF THE CONVERTER!



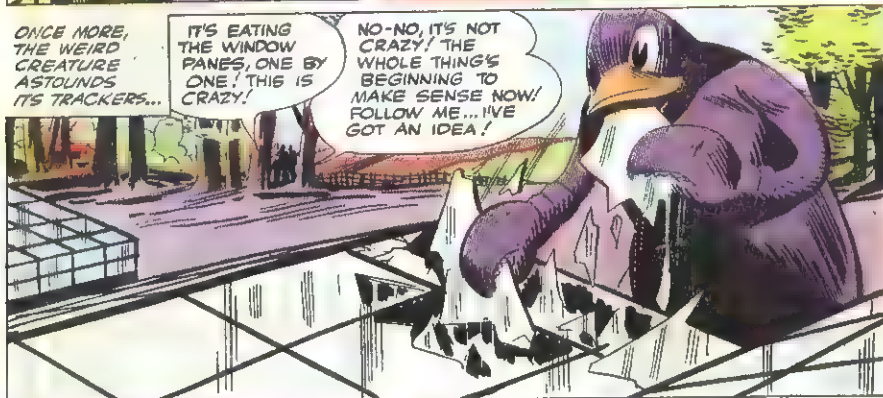




THAT FARMHOUSE--
DIRECTLY IN ITS
PATH... THERE MAY
BE PEOPLE IN
THERE, WHAT
ARE WE GOING
TO DO?



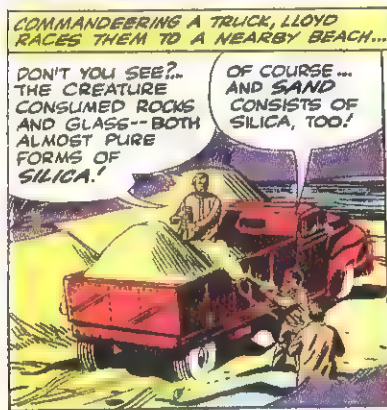
WAIT... IT TURNED
AWAY FROM THE
FARMHOUSE, AND
MADE FOR THOSE
GREENHOUSES!
I--I DON'T GET IT...



ONCE MORE,
THE WEIRD
CREATURE
ASTOUNDS
ITS TRACKERS...

IT'S EATING
THE WINDOW
PANES, ONE BY
ONE! THIS IS
CRAZY!

NO-NO, IT'S NOT
CRAZY! THE
WHOLE THING'S
BEGINNING TO
MAKE SENSE NOW!
FOLLOW ME... I'VE
GOT AN IDEA!



COMMANDERING A TRUCK, LLOYD
RACES THEM TO A NEARBY BEACH...

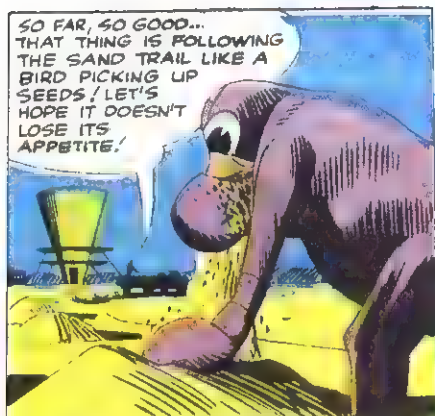
DON'T YOU SEE?...
THE CREATURE
CONSUMED ROCKS
AND GLASS-- BOTH
ALMOST PURE
FORMS OF
SILICA!

OF COURSE...
AND SAND
CONSISTS OF
SILICA, TOO!



SPEEDING BACK TO THE CREATURE, THEY
COMMENCE BAITING THEIR TRAP...

COME ON,
BABY! PAPA'S
GOT LOTS OF
FOOD FOR YOU!
KEEP EATING,
BABY!

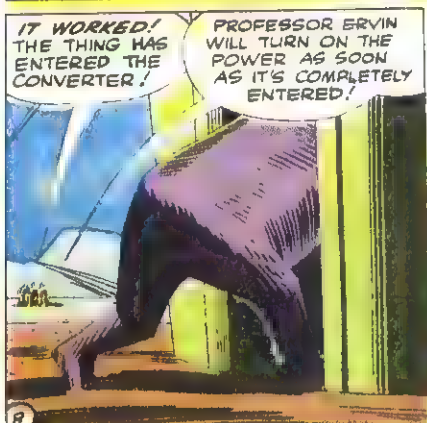


SO FAR, SO GOOD...
THAT THING IS FOLLOWING
THE SAND TRAIL LIKE A
BIRD PICKING UP
SEEDS! LET'S
HOPE IT DOESN'T
LOSE ITS
APPETITE!

AS THE TRUCK REACHES THE CONVERTER,
LLOYD LEAPS INTO ACTION...



THAT DOES IT! NOW, IF
THE CREATURE WILL
JUST KEEP
EATING...

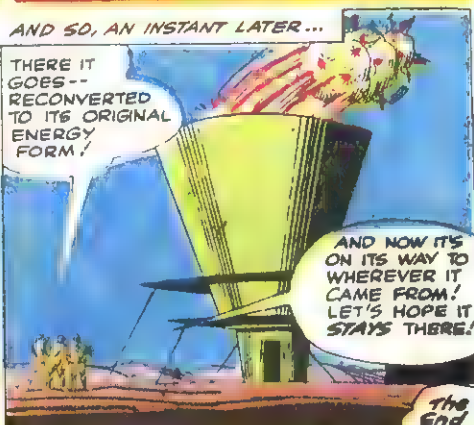


IT WORKED!
THE THING HAS
ENTERED THE
CONVERTER!

PROFESSOR ERVIN
WILL TURN ON THE
POWER AS SOON
AS IT'S COMPLETELY
ENTERED!

AND SO, AN INSTANT LATER...

THERE IT
GOES--
RE-CONVERTED
TO ITS ORIGINAL
ENERGY
FORM!



AND NOW IT'S
ON ITS WAY TO
WHEREVER IT
CAME FROM!
LET'S HOPE IT
STAYS THERE!

The
End

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PHANTOM FOOTSTEPS

THERE it was again—the swift rush of approaching steps, then their quick ascent up the stone stairs. Lieut. Currie lay in the bed and thought of the hopelessness, his utter inability to do anything about it at all. For, since four days ago when he and his platoon had advanced across the French border into Germany and occupied the deserted castle, there had been nothing but disappointment and trouble. The castle should've served as an advantageous Observation Post. Currie could have sent out patrols to probe the enemy lines and return with information about their troop strength, which could be sent back to headquarters.

But trouble—mysterious and inexplicable—had set in with the very first patrol. Three soldiers had been chosen, and, after a briefing, sent out. They'd never been heard from again. They'd been either captured or killed. The same fate awaited patrols that went out on successive nights. It seemed that the woods themselves had opened and swallowed the men, because, as the lieutenant remembered, he'd not even heard a shot.

The only thing he *had* heard every night was the rush of running feet outside the corridor of his room and up the steps. But pursuit was impossible in the cluttered corridor, with its armored knight figures and statuary, because he'd issued strict orders to keep the castle dark. Any light was sure to attract the enemy. Even a flashlight beam, lancing the darkness, might be spotted. Once, he had flung open his door to follow the fleeing phantom, but the blackness was like an intangible wall. "Who's there?" he'd cried. In response, his own echo had drifted back to him.

By the fourth day, he'd begun to think like the men—that the castle was haunted. He noticed the despair of his men. They knew that it was only a matter of time before they, too, would melt in the night, never to be heard from again. Only one, Pvt. Hanson, ridiculed their fears.

"What a bunch of scared guys," he said, with a whiplash of a laugh, one night while Lieut. Currie was deliberating the possibility of leaving. "There must be an explanation, because you all know deep down there's no such thing as a haunted castle! Listen, Lieutenant! I know I'm the only green replacement here, but I'll go!"

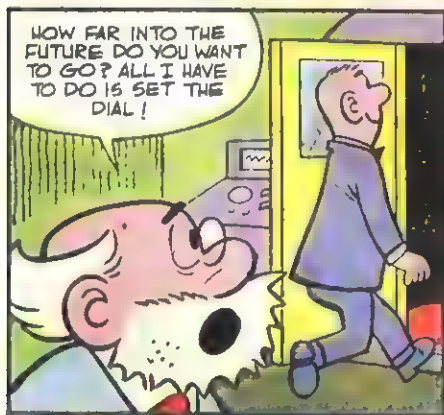
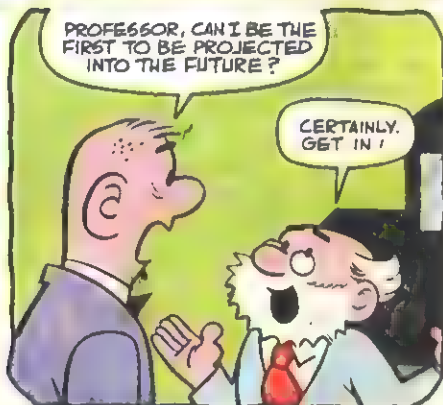
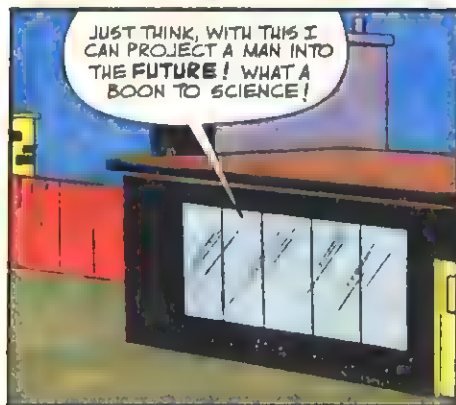
Hanson's mockery jarred Currie into action. He selected three men, explained their mission, and when night fell, the patrol edged out of the castle and into the unknown. Currie went to his room, fell down on his bed . . . and bolted upright when he heard again the rushing footsteps. For suddenly he knew who the culprit was!

Running down the corridor, he banged his leg against a sharp object, tripped over the first step as he lunged up the stairway. He burst onto the roof, fringed with parapets and towers, and spotted his prey. He moved cautiously towards the silhouette of a man, wrenched him by the arm and flung him about.

Hanson! The flashlight dropped from his hands. Currie recovered it, and a glance told him that its infra-red filter had enabled Hanson to signal a confederate, equipped with glasses to make the messages visible in the dark. So that's how his men had vanished! The enemy knew exactly where to wait for them!

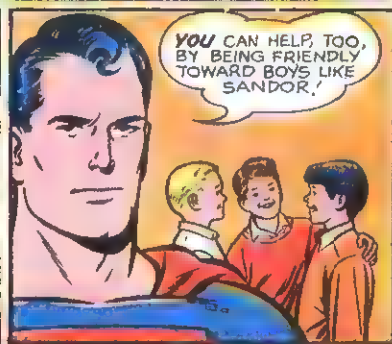
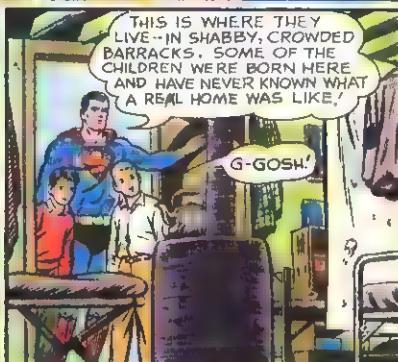
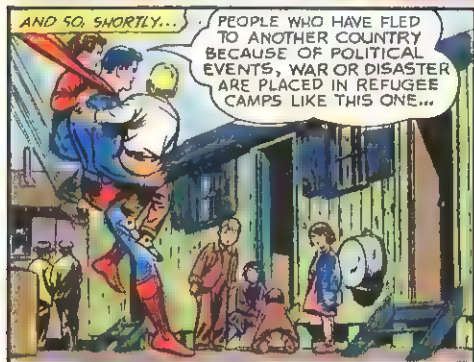
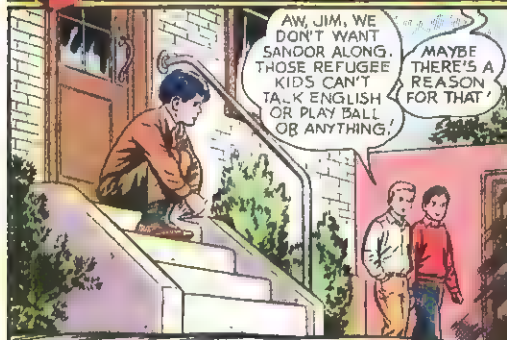
Below, Currie gathered the platoon to encircle Hanson. Their hostile faces forced him to yield the truth. He was an enemy agent, who'd posed as a G.I. and infiltrated as a replacement. He knew this sector well, and before the war had often visited the castle. But how . . . how had the lieutenant caught on? he asked.

"By your footsteps. Your tread was firm and sure as you ran down the hall and up the steps," said Lieut. Currie. "It indicated to me that our phantom was someone completely familiar with the place!"



SUPERMAN "LEND A FRIENDLY HAND!"

says...





IT WAS AN ORDINARY AMERICAN VILLAGE... REMOTE... LONELY... SIMPLE! YET, THE SPIRIT OF SOME STRANGE ENCHANTMENT FROM THE PAST SLOWLY SPREAD OVER IT-- AND ITS EERIE INFLUENCE CREATED INCREDIBLE AND FRIGHTENING WONDERS, IN ADDITION TO...

the ANCIENTS ^{who} LIVED AGAIN

WHAT'S COME OVER THESE THREE? THEY LOOK, ACT-- EVEN SPEAK-- LIKE MEN FROM THE ANCIENT PAST!





HOUSE OF SECRETS



JED'S CURIOUS LETTER ARRIVED AT THE BEGINNING OF MIDTERM VACATION...

SOMETHING IN MY LINE? WHAT COULD THAT TINY VILLAGE HAVE TO INTEREST AN ARCHAEOLOGIST?

Dear Cousin Dan,
Please come up and visit first chance you get. Something in your town has the towns scared silly.
Jed

PROFESSOR DAN STEERFORTH
DEPT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT—SO OFF I WENT, IN MY PRIVATE PLANE, TO THE TOWN OF WINGVILLE...

THERE SHE IS, BELOW! I'LL HAVE TO PASS OVER IT, RENT A CAR, AND DRIVE 20 MILES BACK OVER A DIRT ROAD! HMPH!... SOMETHING TELLS ME I'M ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE!

BUT I WAS QUICK TO CHANGE MY MIND, WHEN...

GREAT SCOTT! THAT SHADOW... AM I SEEING THINGS? TH-THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!

FEVERISH WITH IMPATIENCE, I FINISHED THE REST OF THE TRIP TO COUSIN JED'S MOUNTAIN CABIN IN RECORD TIME...

THANKS FOR, COMING, DAN! NO POINT IN MY SAYING ANYTHING TILL I SHOW YOU A COUPLE OF THINGS! HOP BACK IN THE CAR, AND I'LL TELL YOU WHERE TO GO!

WE FOLLOWED THAT BACKWOODS ROAD A COUPLE OF MILES, UNTIL...

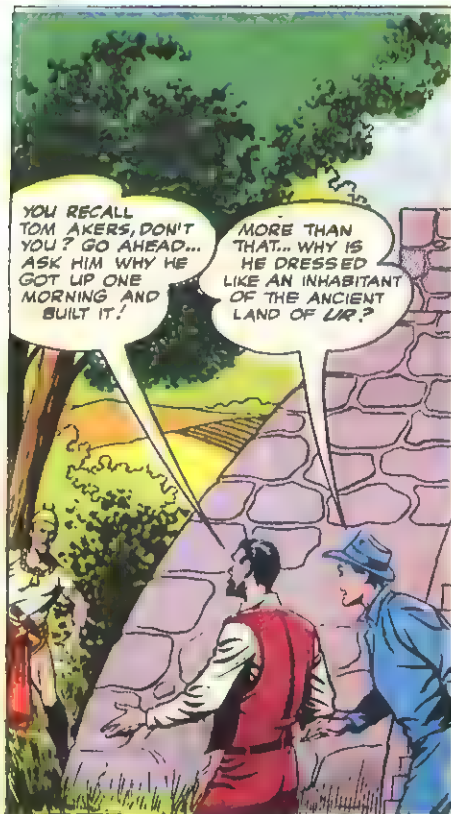
THERE!... WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT? I'M THE ONLY PERSON IN TOWN WHO KNOWS WHAT IT IS, BECAUSE I SAW ONE IN A BOOK YOU SENT ME!

GULP! THAT WASN'T MY IMAGINATION, IN THE PLANE! AN ANCIENT BABYLONIAN STRUCTURE RECONSTRUCTED WITH MODERN MATERIALS! WHO BUILT IT HERE?... AND WHY?



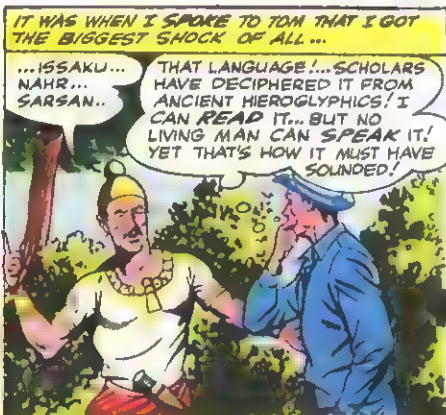


HOUSE OF SECRETS



YOU RECALL TOM AKERS, DON'T YOU? GO AHEAD... ASK HIM WHY HE GOT UP ONE MORNING AND BUILT IT!

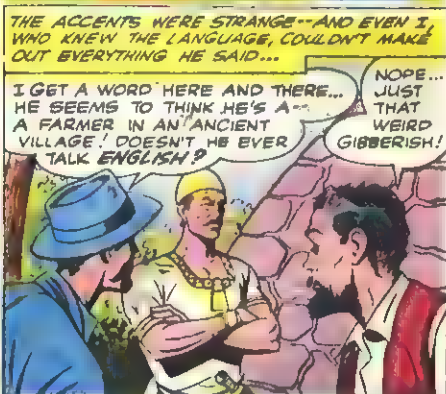
MORE THAN THAT... WHY IS HE DRESSED LIKE AN INHABITANT OF THE ANCIENT LAND OF UIR?



IT WAS WHEN I SPOKE TO TOM THAT I GOT THE BIGGEST SHOCK OF ALL...

...ISSAKU... NAHR... SARSAN...

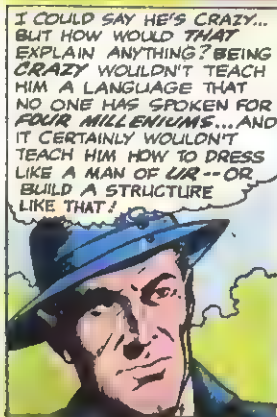
THAT LANGUAGE!... SCHOLARS HAVE DECIPHERED IT FROM ANCIENT HIEROGLYPHICS! I CAN READ IT... BUT NO LIVING MAN CAN SPEAK IT! YET THAT'S HOW IT MUST HAVE SOUNDED!



THE ACCENTS WERE STRANGE-- AND EVEN I WHO KNEW THE LANGUAGE, COULDN'T MAKE OUT EVERYTHING HE SAID...

I GET A WORD HERE AND THERE... HE SEEMS TO THINK HE'S A-- A FARMER IN AN ANCIENT VILLAGE. DOESN'T HE EVER TALK ENGLISH?

NOPE... JUST THAT WEIRD GIBBERISH!

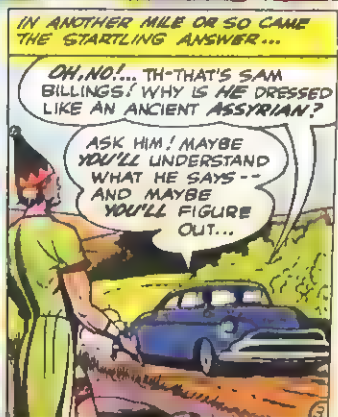


I COULD SAY HE'S CRAZY... BUT HOW WOULD THAT EXPLAIN ANYTHING? BEING CRAZY WOULDN'T TEACH HIM A LANGUAGE THAT NO ONE HAS SPOKEN FOR FOUR MILLENNIUMS... AND IT CERTAINLY WOULDN'T TEACH HIM HOW TO DRESS LIKE A MAN OF UIR-- OR BUILD A STRUCTURE LIKE THAT!



PUZZLING, EH? WELL, COME ON... I'VE GOT SOMETHING ELSE TO SHOW YOU!

SOMETHING ELSE? WH-WHAT?



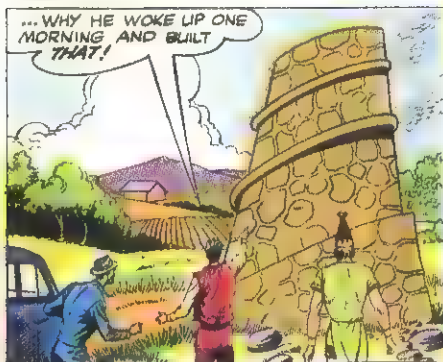
IN ANOTHER MILE OR SO CAME THE STARTLING ANSWER...

OH, NO!... TH-THAT'S SAM BILLINGS! WHY IS HE DRESSED LIKE AN ANCIENT ASSYRIAN?

ASK HIM! MAYBE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHAT HE SAYS-- AND MAYBE YOU'LL FIGURE OUT...



HOUSE OF SECRETS

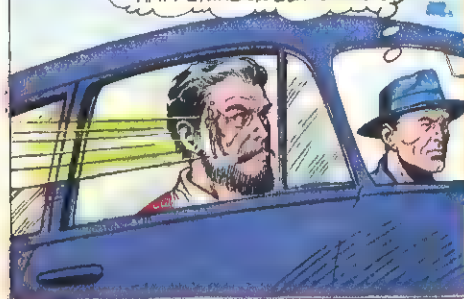


"WE NEVER FOUND OUT WHO DID IT, AND THE RANGERS HAD TO COME STOP IT... AND ANOTHER DAY, SOMEONE MADE A BREAK IN THE DAM NEAR TOM'S PLACE!"



IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT THAT A STRANGE UNEASINESS CAME OVER ME...

I FEEL FUNNY--AS IF SOMETHING *EERIE* IS HAPPENING... BUT *WHAT?*



AGAIN, LISTENING TO SAM'S PURE ASSYRIAN SPEECH, I COULD ONLY MAKE OUT A WORD HERE AND THERE...

IF I DIDN'T KNOW THAT TOM AND SAM HAVE LIVED HERE ALL THEIR LIVES, I'D SAY THEY **STEPPED OUT OF THE PAST!** IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT HAPPENED...ANYTHING **STRANGE?**

YES--ONE DAY, SOMEONE STARTED A FIRE AROUND HERE...

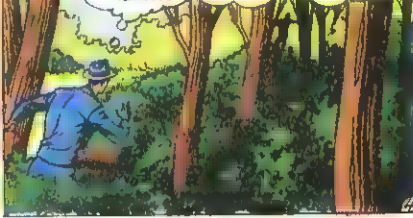


THE DAM WAS PATCHED... NO ONE WAS HURT... AND WE NEVER FOUND OUT WHO PULLED EITHER STUNT--OR WHY!



THEN I HEARD IT... A RUSTLING AT THE SIDE OF THE ROAD, I LEAPED OUT, AND...

I WAS RIGHT!...I *DID* HEAR SOMEONE PROWLING IN THOSE SHRUBS, NO SENSE GOING AFTER HIM NOW...I'D NEVER GET HIM IN THESE THICK WOODS! MUST ASK JED IF THERE HAVE BEEN ANY STRANGERS AROUND TOWN.





HOUSE OF SECRETS



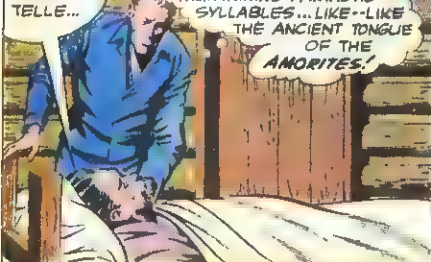
BUT BACK AT THE CAR...

HE'S FAST ASLEEP! I GUESS WORRYING OVER THIS WEIRD SITUATION HAS BEEN TIRING HIM MORE THAN HE KNEW! I'LL DRIVE BACK... PUT HIM TO BED!



SUDDENLY, WEIRD CRIES SUMMONED ME TO JED'S ROOM...

SIBBARU... ANKANA... TELLE... HE'S CALLING OUT IN HIS SLEEP... MURMURING FANTASTIC SYLLABLES... LIKE--LIKE THE ANCIENT TONGUE OF THE AMORITES!



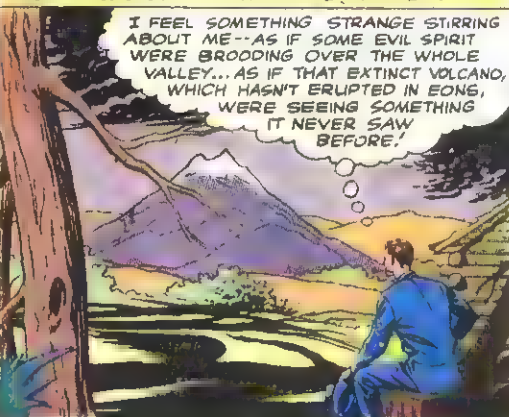
I DASHED OUT TO THE PASTURE, WHERE...



GREAT SCOTT! NOW HE'S BEEN CHANGED... INTO AN ANCIENT AMORITE!

JED! WH-WHAT'S COME OVER YOU?

FOR AWHILE, BACK AT JED'S CABIN, I SAT GAZING AT THE FAR HILLS--THE CONICAL MOUNTAIN TOP LOOMING OVER US--THE STRANGE SHAPES WHICH DUSK MOLDS OUT OF FALLING SHADOWS...



I FEEL SOMETHING STRANGE STIRRING ABOUT ME--AS IF SOME EVIL SPIRIT WERE BROODING OVER THE WHOLE VALLEY... AS IF THAT EXTINCT VOLCANO, WHICH HASN'T ERUPTED IN EONS, WERE SEEING SOMETHING IT NEVER SAW BEFORE!

I COULDN'T AWAKE HIM, BUT FELL, MYSELF, INTO A FITFUL SLEEP! WHEN I OPENED MY EYES, THE SLANTING SUN'S RAYS TOLD ME IT WAS ALREADY NOON...



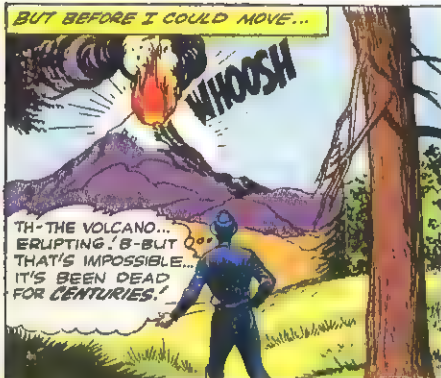
WHEN I MUST HAVE BEEN REAL TIRED, I WONDER HOW JED--HUN?

HE DIDN'T ANSWER... JUST KEPT ON DIGGING AND BUILDING! THEN, SOMETHING FLASHED IN MY EYES, AND I LOOKED UP TO SEE...



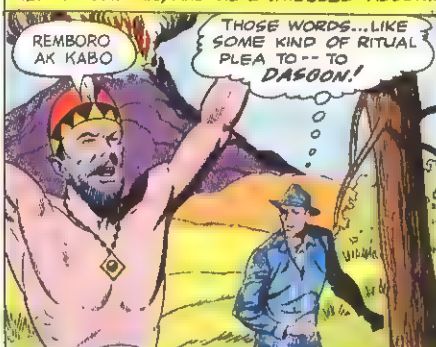
THAT OBLONG OF GREEN STONE ON THAT TREE... WHAT CAN IT MEAN? I'LL CLIMB UP... GET IT!

BUT BEFORE I COULD MOVE...



TH- THE VOLCANO...
ERUPTING. 'S-BUT
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
IT'S BEEN DEAD
FOR CENTURIES!

THEN, BEHIND ME I HEARD A STRANGE
INCANTATION IN THE WORDS OF THE OLDEN
MEN OF ANIMUR, AND AS I WHEELED ABOUT...

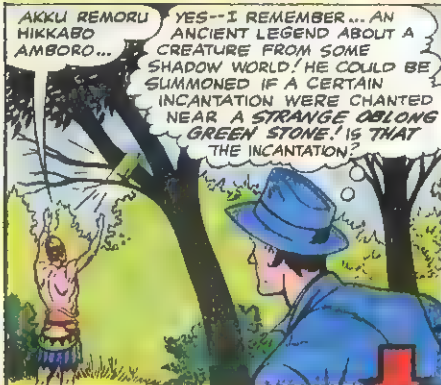


REMBORO
AK KABO

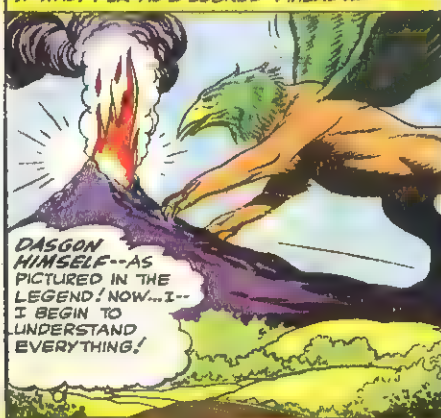
THOSE WORDS...LIKE
SOME KIND OF RITUAL
PLEA TO-- TO
DASGON!

AKKU REMORU
HIKKABO
AMBORO...

YES-- I REMEMBER... AN
ANCIENT LEGEND ABOUT A
CREATURE FROM SOME
SHADOW WORLD! HE COULD BE
SUMMONED IF A CERTAIN
INCANTATION WERE CHANTED
NEAR A **STRANGE OBLONG
GREEN STONE!** IS THAT
THE INCANTATION?

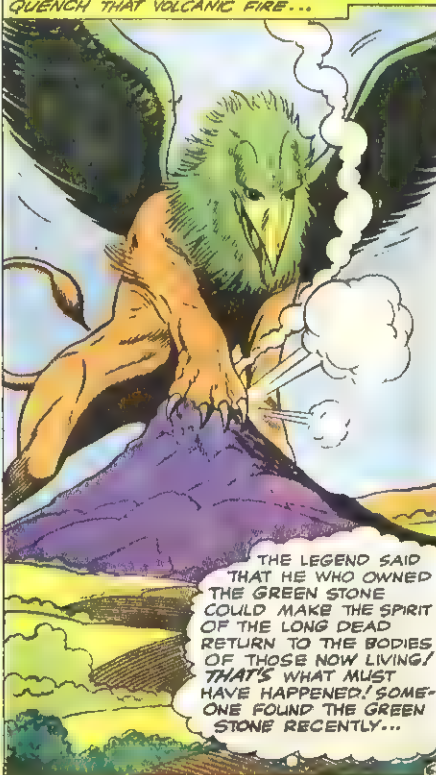


IT WAS! FOR AS I LOOKED AHEAD...



**DASGON
HIMSELF--AS
PICTURED IN THE
LEGEND! NOW...I--
I BEGIN TO
UNDERSTAND
EVERYTHING!**

AND AS I WATCHED THE WEIRD CREATURE
QUENCH THAT VOLCANIC FIRE...



THE LEGEND SAID
THAT HE WHO OWNED
THE GREEN STONE
COULD MAKE THE SPIRIT
OF THE LONG DEAD
RETURN TO THE BODIES
OF THOSE NOW LIVING!
**THAT'S WHAT MUST
HAVE HAPPENED! SOME-
ONE FOUND THE GREEN
STONE RECENTLY...**



HOUSE OF SECRETS



...AND HE WANTED THE INCANTATION, TOO, SO THAT HE COULD SUMMON AND CONTROL DAGGON. HE MUST HAVE USED THE STONE TO TRANSFORM NATIVES HERE TO ANCIENTS, HOPING THAT ONE WOULD MUTTER THE INCANTATION!

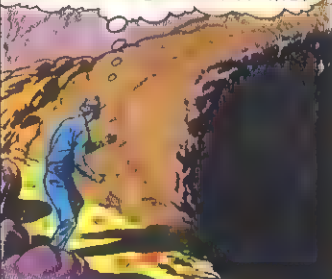


THE FLOOD... THE FIRE... THE VOLCANO... HE MUST HAVE CAUSED THEM, EXPECTING ONE OF THE ANCIENTS TO CHANT THE WORDS WHEN DANGER STRUCK. IF THE VOLCANO WAS MAN-MADE, I'LL KNOW I'M ON THE RIGHT TRACK!

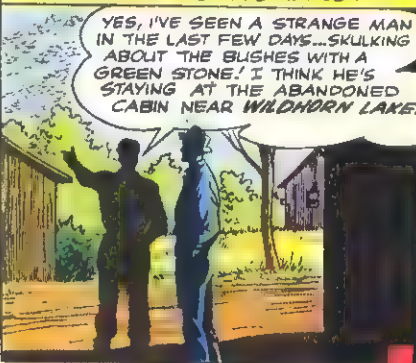


IT DIDN'T TAKE ME LONG TO DISCOVER THE TRUTH ABOUT THAT...

YES... TRACES OF EXPLOSIVE CHEMICALS! I MUST HURRY... GET ON THE TRACK OF THE MAN WHO IS BEHIND ALL THIS!

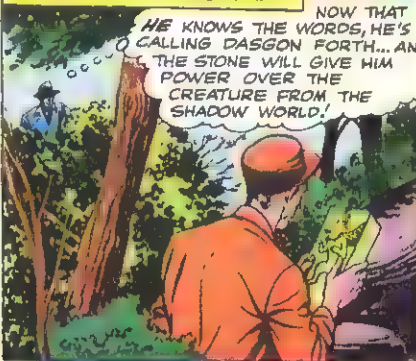


I APPROACHED ALL THE VILLAGERS, ASKING IF ANYONE HAD SEEN A STRANGER...



YES, I'VE SEEN A STRANGE MAN IN THE LAST FEW DAYS... SKULKING ABOUT THE BUSHES WITH A GREEN STONE. I THINK HE'S STAYING AT THE ABANDONED CABIN NEAR WILDHORN LAKE!

AT WILDHORN LAKE, I HID BEHIND THICK SHRUBS AND WATCHED, AS...



NOW THAT HE KNOWS THE WORDS, HE'S CALLING DAGGON FORTH... AND THE STONE WILL GIVE HIM POWER OVER THE CREATURE FROM THE SHADOW WORLD!

MY DEDUCTIONS WERE CORRECT! OUT OF THE GATHERING SHADOWS, DAGGON'S FORM SOLIDIFIED AND THE STRANGER SPOKE IN ANCIENT WORDS...



ISHTAR GRADA KAN

HE'S COMMANDING HIM TO REND A MOUNTAIN APART! I... I GUESS HE WANTS TO TEST HIS POWER OVER THE CREATURE! IF IT WORKS, HE'LL BE ABLE TO RULE THE WORLD!



INSTANTS LATER, I BEHELD AN AMAZING SPECTACLE



THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO... BUT I MUST WAIT TILL THE CREATURE VANISHES!

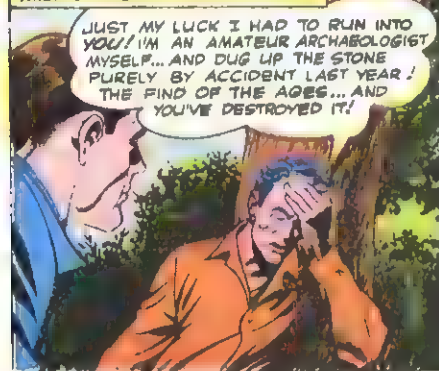
DAGGON PERFORMED HIS TASK, MERGED INVISIBLY FROM THE SHADOWS... AND THEN I LEAPED FORTH!



...THEN I'LL SMASH YOU ONE IN THE JAW! YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

OWWWW!
H-HOW DID YOU DISCOVER THE SECRET OF THE OBLONG STONE?

WHEN I TOLD HIM WHO I WAS...

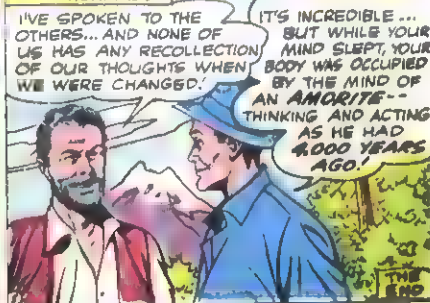


JUST MY LUCK I HAD TO RUN INTO YOU! I'M AN AMATEUR ARCHAEOLOGIST MYSELF... AND DUG UP THE STONE PURELY BY ACCIDENT LAST YEAR! THE FIND OF THE AGES... AND YOU'VE DESTROYED IT!

YES, I DID... AND I'D DO IT AGAIN! LATER, I FOUND OUT THAT THE MOMENT THE STONE WAS SMASHED, JED AND THE OTHER VILLAGERS RETURNED TO NORMAL!

I'VE SPOKEN TO THE OTHERS... AND NONE OF US HAS ANY RECOLLECTION OF OUR THOUGHTS WHEN WE WERE CHANGED.

IT'S INCREDIBLE... BUT WHILE YOUR MIND SLEPT, YOUR BODY WAS OCCUPIED BY THE MIND OF AN AMORITE-- THINKING AND ACTING AS HE HAD 4,000 YEARS AGO!



THE END

DO YOU WANT SPENDING MONEY?

Sell these popular Patriotic and Religious Mottoes

SEND US NO MONEY IN ADVANCE

Just write and ask us to send you 40 of these beautiful glittering mottoes which the public likes so well. Sell them easily and quickly to your friends and neighbors for only 35c each. At the end of 14 days send back, if you wish, all mottoes you have not sold, and send us only 25c for each you have sold. You keep all the rest of the money.

IF YOU SELL 25, YOU KEEP \$2.50

IF YOU SELL 30, YOU KEEP \$3.00

IF YOU SELL ALL 40 YOU KEEP \$4.00

REMEMBER: No money is needed in advance. You take no risks. You can return all the mottoes you do not sell. You do not pay shipping costs or split your commission. You keep all the profit on each sale.

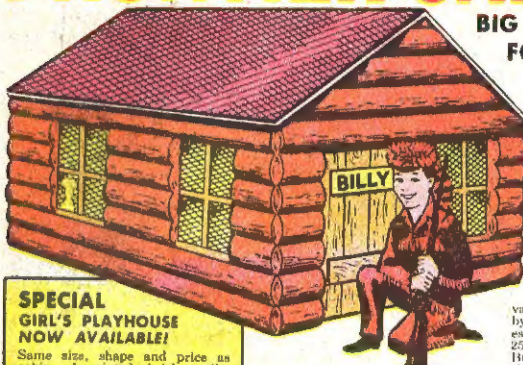


WRITE
FOR COMPLETE
DETAILS
TO ➡

STEPHENS CREDIT SALES

Dept. NP P. O. Box 1004
Nashville, Tennessee

FRONTIER CABIN



**BIG ENOUGH
FOR 2-3
KIDS!**

\$1.00
5 for
\$4.00

SPECIAL GIRL'S PLAYHOUSE NOW AVAILABLE!

Same size, shape and price as cabin. Imprinted brick walls, French windows, folded wood-slat shutters, flowers, shrubs, sloping roof, large door, etc.

FREE

Large 2"x8" Name Plate fits on door. House can be personalized with child's name.

Orders Shipped Within 24 Hours!

FRONTIER CABIN

Dept. FC-5, 147 West 42 St.
NEW YORK 36, NEW YORK

FRONTIER CABIN

Please send me
items checked:

☐ I enclose ☐ Cash

☐ Check

☐ M.O.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zone _____ State _____

Dept. FC-5, 147 W. 42 St., N. Y. 36, N. Y.

☐ Frontier Cabin for \$1.00 plus 25¢ postage and handling
☐ Girl's Playhouse for \$1.00 plus 25¢ postage and handling
☐ Frontier Cabin or Giant Playhouse or Any Combination
for 5 for only \$4.00 plus \$1.00 postage and handling

Sorry, No C.O.D.'s

150 CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS!

\$1.49

- 6 BATTALING MACHINE GUNS
- 30 CAVALRYMEN
- 30 INFANTRYMEN
- 18 SHARPSHOOTERS
- 18 FIELD CANNON
- 3 MERRIMAC SHIPS
- 6 HOSPITAL WAGONS
- 6 HOSPITAL NURSES
- 3 MONITOR SHIPS
- 6 SCOUTS
- 6 OFFICERS
- 6 SERGEANTS
- 6 BUGLERS
- 6 COAST MORTARS

JOSELY CO., Dept. W-11M

Carle Place
Long Island, N. Y.

HERE'S MY \$1.49!

NO
C.O.D.'s

Rush the CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS TO ME!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Canadian orders send \$1.75 postal money order

TWO COMPLETE ARMIES—THE BLUES AND THE GREYS
EACH PIECE OF MOLDED PLASTIC, EACH ON ITS OWN
BASE MEASURING UP TO 4 INCHES!

NIN

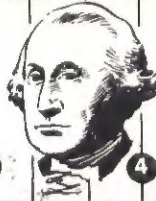
A BEAUTIFUL SIGNET RING

ENGRAVED WITH YOUR OWN INITIAL

IT'S FUN! IT'S EASY!

★ *All you do is...* ★

NAME THESE FAMOUS U. S. PRESIDENTS



Just Get All 4 Right... We'll Send Your

GENUINE NICKEL SILVER SIGNET RING ABSOLUTELY FREE!

(A really terrific ring — made up with your own initial)

Also we'll mail **BIG CATALOG** showing Bikes, Dolls, Guns, Watches, etc. — *You can get at no cost!* You'll be tickled pink and proud as a peacock to wear this strikingly beautiful ring. Wait till you see it! And it's so easy to win. Simply check on coupon the correct names of the 4 famous American Presidents shown in the pictures above and mail to us. If you name all 4 Presidents correctly, we will send you **ABSOLUTELY FREE** your **OWN PERSONAL SIGNET RING** — made up with your own

initial (you may have your choice of first letter of either first or last name.) Also, we will send you big FREE CAT, ALOG of wonderful PREMIUMS — Bikes, Wrist Watches, Guns, Dolls and dozens of others — and tell you how to get them at no cost! Simply offer White CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE, easily sold to friends, relatives and neighbors, at 50c a package, and choose your PREMIUM or CASH COMMISSION. But right now, name correctly the Presidents shown above and get your BEAUTIFUL SIGNET RING—ABSOLUTELY FREE! Rush coupon today!

**HURRY! HURRY! CHECK YOUR
ANSWERS ON THE COUPON...**

Then mail coupon to win your
BEAUTIFUL SIGNET RING

Win genuine nickel silver SIGNET RING—ABSOLUTELY FREE! Just name correctly the 4 famous American Presidents pictured above. Check names on coupon—fill in rest of coupon and mail to us. IT'S EASY TO WIN—ACT NOW!

**MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY!
WIN A BEAUTIFUL SIGNET RING!**

Wilson Chemical Co., Dept. 5-115, Tyrone, Pa.

Famous American Presidents shown in pictures are (check 4 only)

<input type="checkbox"/> George Washington	<input type="checkbox"/> Theodore Roosevelt	<input type="checkbox"/> Thomas Jefferson
<input type="checkbox"/> Abraham Lincoln	<input type="checkbox"/> Ulysses Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> James Madison

If I am a winner, rush my **GENUINE NICKEL SILVER SIGNET RING** and 14 packages of **White CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE** to sell at 50¢ a package. I will remit amount asked within 30 days, select a **PREMIUM** or keep **CASH COMMISSION** as explained under Premium in Catalog sent with order, postage paid to start.

NAME _____ AGE _____

STREET RD BOX

TOWN _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

I want my Ring with this initial _____

DRIFT EAST

[illegible]

 Paste coupon on post card or mail in envelope today!
